

**Comparing the
Nebraska Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) Grant
to the Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) State Grant**

Q & A

Q. How is the scope of the Mathematics and Science Partnership (Title II B, K-12 portion) different from the scope of Improving Teacher Quality (Title II A, higher ed portion) grants?

A. Math and Science Partnership (MSP) grants may be used for the development of curriculum or professional development in only math and/or science. The Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) grant may also be used for professional development but is open to activity in all core academic subjects.

Q. Both grants require partnerships to apply. Are the partnership requirements the same?

A. No. Both grants require a minimum of a three-member partnership, and both require a high-need LEA and a teacher education department of an institution of higher education. However, the third partner for MSP must be an engineering, mathematics, or science department of a four-year institution of higher education while the third partner for ITQ must be a college of arts and sciences.

Q. Is the definition of high-need school district (LEA) the same for both MSP and ITQ?

A. No. For MSP grants, a high-need school district is defined as one that meets at least one of the following four criteria: (1) poverty; (2) STARS rating; (3) school improvement status; or (4) high school teacher qualifications.

For ITQ grants, NCLB specifies that a high-need LEA must be one that has at least 10,000 students or 20% of its students in poverty and has a high percentage of teachers teaching out of the area for which they were endorsed.

Q. Can there be more than three partners for both the MSP and the ITQ proposals?

A. Yes. Proposals may include an unlimited number of partners in addition to the required partners. Consult the applications for more information.

Q. Can proposals for projects serving identical needs and target populations be submitted to both the ITQ and MSP grant programs?

- A. Partnerships are discouraged from submitting similar or identical proposals to both programs. By design, the MSP grant program is restricted to serving professional development and curriculum development needs only in math and science while the ITQ grant can serve a wider range of needs and target populations.

Q. Can any of the partners be the fiscal agent?

- A. For ITQ, yes. For MSP, only school districts or ESUs can be the fiscal agent.

Q. How are funds disbursed?

- A. For ITQ, partners request reimbursement for funds as they are spent. The final 25% of the award is withheld until all final reporting requirements are met.

For MSP, the first 50% of the grant is awarded initially, with 40% disbursed as needed, and the final 10% held until all final reporting requirements are met.

Q. Where can I find additional information?

- A. Click on the links below to access the MSP and ITQ grant applications and guidance.

ITQ Application: <http://www.ccpe.state.ne.us/PublicDoc/CCPE/ITQ/>

MSP Application: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/msp/application.html>

MSP Guidance: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/msp/guidance.html>